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ROCK STATISTICS AT THE MARS PATHFINDER LANDING SITE

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A population of some 2000 rocks was measured at the Pathfinder landing site using the NASA Ames Marsmap virtual reality system during the first 6 weeks of mission operations. Rocks in the far-field were also measured directly using the stereo base afforded by the Imager for Mars Pathfinder, with views from before and after deployment on its mast. Rock frequency and size distribution statistics are consistent with remotely sensed data, and with Earth analog sites. A database containing the rock set is being used for further analysis of rock shape, colour and burial. Study of this dat abase may elucidate whether, and to what extent, distinct rock populations are present at the MPF site.

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